

Professor Pupa

Professor Michael I. Pupa of Columbia University, inventor of the ocean telephone, by means of which spoken conversation may be carried on between the United States and Europe, began his career in America as an attendant in Turkish bath parlors in Brooklyn, says the Chicago Chronicle. He began to climb the ladder early and soon after acquiring the language of this country began to educate himself. He hewed his way swiftly when he began his work and is to-day one of the few millionaire professors in the country who has made his money by his efforts in the classroom and the laboratory. Professor Pupa sold his invention to the American Telephone and Telegraph Company for \$200,000 and an annuity.

Professor Pupa was born in 1855 on the southern frontier of Austria-Hungary, which is inhabited by a warlike Serbian people. Pupa's ancestors were defenders of the frontier against the ravages of the Turks. The young man, however, did not care to follow in the footsteps of his illustrious ancestors and when his parents would not allow him to select some peaceful pursuit he ran away from home to escape the army and the drudgery of it and landed in New York in 1874. It was while in the Turkish bath parlors in Brooklyn that the young man made the acquaintance of many eminent men who afterward aided him to better things. Notable among these was Rev. Dr. Horner, pastor of the Protestant Episcopal church, who got Pupa a scholarship in Adelphi college, from which institution the young Serbian graduated in two years with high honors.

He entered Columbia university in 1879 and during his studies there captured several important prizes. He was graduated at the head of his class in 1883 and delivered the Greek salutatory. He went to Europe, where he took a postgraduate course. In his private studies he made a specialty of electrical wave propagation and in this manner he came to invent the ocean telephone that has made him rich and famous. Professor Pupa's invention is very simple and consists simply of coils of wire placed inside the sheath, eight to a mile, to prevent the saturation of the cable with conflicting currents.

Summer Swine Notes

A recent journey from Chicago to Southern Missouri gave the writer a chance to note the condition of the swine being summered on the farms along the lines traversed. We saw with interest and pleasure that in not a single instance were swine kept in small yards at this time of the year. They had apparently the run of large pastures and in many cases were being pastured as an adjunct food to the clover and grass. Hog wallows were in full use on many farms and we saw a great many hogs using crocks as drinking and wallowing places. The thing most apparent, however, was that as Illinois was left behind the uniformity of breed and conformation in the hogs noted differed materially. It is evident that on the best corn lands the swine stock has been carefully bred along given lines so that the specimens seen were good Poland Chinas, Berkshire or Duroc Jerseys. Across the Mississippi going south the swine change in appearance and on some farms we noticed all sorts of hogs and few good ones. On one field there were to be seen swine of three different colors and their mixtures and all of the animals seemed the worse for the fact that uniformity in breeding had not been observed. A red sow was nursing black and white and red pigs, going to show that she had been bred to a black and white boar or boar of mixed blood. On the latter farms where mixed breeding had been followed hogs were of all sizes but where practically pure bred hogs were seen they were about of a size. This is what one would expect under the circumstances stated and serves to draw attention to the fact that it does not pay to have several breeds of swine on the farm at one time unless they are kept separate and not allowed to intermingle bloods. It may be all very well for a professional breeder to own and carefully breed several kinds of hogs but the average farmer after deciding which hog suited him in every respect should stick to that one breed and endeavor to further improve his home herd. Where several kinds of hogs are kept there is a temptation to mix them in breeding when the boar used has become closely related to the female portion of the herd. The owner is apt to figure that the ill effects of too close breeding will be antidoted by changing the blood—in other words by infusing a top cross of alien blood from a boar of one of the other breeds handled. It is true that the progeny of this cross will most probably prove stronger in constitution and the litter larger in number but the eventual result will be that a cross-bred sow has to take the place of a line bred sow in producing the subsequent crop of pigs. This sort of work is dangerous. The first effects may be beneficial but in the long run, on the average farm, the swine stock will surely deteriorate.

Improvement would on the other hand be as sure to follow continuance in the breeding of the same practically pure bred stock of swine were care taken to procure a fresh boar of the same blood from some other breeder so that his blood while identical in breed would be alien in family connection. This would be safe breeding and do away with the admixture of blood which result in nondescript or mixed progeny. It is difficult to cut out a bunch of uniform market hogs where a number of different varieties of swine are kept. It is certainly profitable to market uniform hogs. Where the color and shape and quality and weight are almost identical a better price may be expected than where the bunch is composed of "sixes and sevens," so to speak, and the buyer cannot make up his mind as to what he is getting for his money. When he looks at a uniform lot of hogs of similar shapes and weights he does not hesitate a minute. Experience teaches him what he may reasonably expect and he offers a price that is profitable mutually. It is all very well to provide swine with wide pastures as has so often been preached of late years. It is well to keep them away from creeks and wallows and to provide them with mixed rations and abundance of green food, but the importance of blood must not be left out of the calculations. Swine cannot have a too suitable environment, but it is a pity to provide such an environment for a class of hogs that will not make the very best of their food and environment.

The Boy King of Spain

The Spaniards are already in love with this young king. He is so like his father, this, to their estimation, is the best compliment they can pay him, says Helen Vacaresco in the Review of Reviews. Yet in visage and talk Alfonso XIII. very much resembles his mother. He possesses her sharp impulsive way; her voice, mellow and lively; her soft hair, her bashful and persistent smile, her charming way of questioning eagerly about all matters, her secret willfulness. Although he is not very tall, he makes up for this deficiency by a kind of nonchalant grace very peculiar in one so young. When he walks, with an rhythmic step, he gives the impression of one who is accustomed to take the lead, and to be looked at by a great number of people in so doing. He is extremely fond of his sisters and faithful playmates, and at the marriage of the Princess della Asturias every one noticed his emotion when the princess took her place by the side of her husband in front of the altar.

So far the Queen-Regent has succeeded in allowing him to be a Spaniard through and through; to take the greatest interest in the smallest events of everyday life in Madrid, just as his father did; to know and call the grannies by their Christian names; to find pleasure in Spanish sports. The King, like his mother, is tender, passionately proud of his native land, impulsive, and full of sympathy for the poor and the weak. Etiquette already weighs upon him, and he is impatient of its fetters. Before long Europe will learn to discover in this very young man—who, in fact, is only a child by years—a sovereign indeed, and one whose actions are likely to change most of the ideas and currents that now cross the political life of Spain.

Ice Trusts.

A report from Trenton, New Jersey, says: "A \$14,000,000 ice combine was granted a charter here last week. The New England Consolidated Ice Co., which has been in progress of forming for some time, is the name of the company, and it includes most all the important dealers throughout New England. The capital stock of the company heretofore has been \$125,000. The application for increased capital was signed by E. John Kaufman, as president and George L. Holms secretary. Of the total \$3,000,000 is to be in preferred stock bearing 6 per cent non-cumulative dividends and \$11,000,000 common stock." Great ice trusts are developing in different parts of the country. In the west at least this has resulted in a very heavy increase in the price of ice. This in turn has caused many people in the cities to cease using ice. Of all trusts this should be the easiest to destroy, as no company can get a monopoly on water and cold.

Porto Rico as a Coffee Producer.

The island of Porto Rico bids fair to become a great producer of coffee. Already the industry there has assumed considerable proportions. The crop last year was in excess of 200,000 bags. An attempt is being made to increase the yield per acre, which is now in the neighborhood of 200 pounds. In some instances the yield has been increased to 800 pounds per acre. Some planters by giving good culture are getting from 250 to 600 pounds per acre at present. The application of good methods to the plantations throughout the island would, it is believed, double the yield. It is estimated that the crop for the coming year will not be less than 350,000 bags. The quality of the coffee is pronounced to be of the best.

If ignorance is bliss, of what use are collages?

A guilty conscience needs an excuser.

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Witty Reply of Celtic Sult to Prospective Father-in-Law.

An anecdote of Celtic wit has to do with a young Irishman of good birth and small property who heard that a very wealthy man of the community was understood to be ready to give a handsome dowry to his daughter, who was unfortunate in having a hump on her back. He wanted her to have a husband before the younger daughter, who had beauty to commend her. The Celt, taking a chance on the strength of the rumor, laid siege to the older girl's heart and hand, and was accepted. The father received the announcement with a dignity that concealed his joy, but could not refrain from saying:

"And, my dear sir, ten thousand pounds goes with her—that is her dowry!"

The prospective son-in-law made no reply and seemed lost in thought. After a few minutes the happy father slapped him on the shoulder and asked:

"What in the world are you thinking about?"

"O'm thinking," was the reply, "that it's a pity it is ye haven't a daughter with two humps!"

What a Good Name Does. Chicago, Ill., Aug. 11th.—Mr. Vahlberg of 222 South Peoria St., this city, had for years been an invalid with liver complaint and kidney trouble which was fast hastening him to the grave. The Doctors gave him up and his friends and neighbors all declared he could not live.

His brother came from Minneapolis to see him before he died and inquired if he had tried Dodd's Kidney Pills. On being told that this remedy had not been used he went out at once and bought a box, feeling satisfied from what he knew of Dodd's Kidney Pills and the noble work they had been doing in Minnesota, that they would save his brother's life. The first two days Mr. Vahlberg seemed to grow worse, but after that he gradually improved under the treatment and was soon restored to complete good health.

Steamer Runs Aground. Paducah, Ky., special: The steamer City of Savannah ran aground in the Ohio river near here. Two attempts to rescue her have failed. The Savannah was a new boat.

DON'T SPOIL YOUR CLOTHES. Use Red Cross Ball Blue and keep them white as snow. All grocers, 5c. a package.

Every woman has an idea that it ought to be a pleasure for a man to work for money for her to spend. Some men are so self-confident that they are unable to distinguish between a cheer and a her.

ICE TRUSTS. A report from Trenton, New Jersey, says: "A \$14,000,000 ice combine was granted a charter here last week. The New England Consolidated Ice Co., which has been in progress of forming for some time, is the name of the company, and it includes most all the important dealers throughout New England. The capital stock of the company heretofore has been \$125,000. The application for increased capital was signed by E. John Kaufman, as president and George L. Holms secretary. Of the total \$3,000,000 is to be in preferred stock bearing 6 per cent non-cumulative dividends and \$11,000,000 common stock." Great ice trusts are developing in different parts of the country. In the west at least this has resulted in a very heavy increase in the price of ice. This in turn has caused many people in the cities to cease using ice. Of all trusts this should be the easiest to destroy, as no company can get a monopoly on water and cold.

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